



## 2012 SECTOR FOCUS

### Health

**SECTOR STRATEGY SUPPORT** – USAID is continuing to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MOHSW)'s 10-year plan, as well as continuing to ensure further alignment of USAID programs through the Global Health Initiative (GHI) strategy which has core principles of country ownership and integrated health systems for sustainable impact. USAID's strategy is using a three tiered approach:

1. Nationwide investments in MOHSW capacity building and technical assistance for policy formulation, strategy development, and systems strengthening – including management and oversight capacity.
2. Intensive investments in three target counties (Bong, Nimba, Lofa) for facility and community-based services, County Health & Social Welfare Teams (CHSWT) capacity building, introducing global best practices, and piloting innovative interventions providing evidence to inform national policies and strategies. This new geographic focus is closely orchestrated with other donors to maintain nationwide coverage of Essential Package of Health Services (EPHS) while improving efficiency through economies of scale with more congruent target areas.
3. Strategic investments in six development corridor counties (inclusive of the three counties above) based on USAID's comparative advantage and leveraging other donor support.

An underlying component of the strategy is the use of host country systems to channel USAID funding for service delivery and other activities (\$2.7 Million in FY2012 and \$14 Million by FY2014) using a Fixed Amount Reimbursement Agreement (FARA) that is pre-financed from the Government of Liberia's national budget.

**HEALTH OUTCOMES AND SUSTAINABILITY SUPPORT** – USAID is supporting MOHSW to work through community health volunteers to expand community-based services to improve access (in lieu of opening new health facilities) and engage community leaders to support an enabling environment for increased utilization of priority health services.

Through these efforts, USAID hopes to increase utilization of services such as skilled-birth attendance and birth preparedness to reduce maternal mortality; family planning to reduce unintended pregnancies which contribute to both maternal and child mortality, and population growth; adoption of appropriate feeding practices, as well as preventive and curative behaviors to reduce the burden of the main causes of morbidity and mortality of children such as vaccine preventable diseases, malaria, diarrhea, and pneumonia.

USAID is also focusing on increasing public private partnerships to leverage their networks, expertise, and funding, extending the reach of health services/activities. Currently these partnerships include Indoor Residual Spraying for malaria prevention (ArcelorMittal, Liberian Agricultural Company, BHP Billiton), family planning activities (ArcelorMittal), and privately managed public-use toilet, latrine, hand washing and shower facilities (Chevron).

USAID is also supporting the MOHSW efforts to increase budget execution rate, shift health workers onto government payroll, and start transfer of other operational costs (such as commodities) to government budget.